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TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

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“CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGNING

When a particular request is received to install “Children at Play” or similar signing, it is usually associated with the fact that on or near a particular section of roadway, a child or children may be present at various times of the day. This may occur for a wide range of reasons such as their attending school or school activities, participating in neighborhood and recreational activities, running errands, riding bicycles, or just playing on or close to a roadway.

When this occurs, various signing alternatives are available to address specific situations. For example, an investigation should be initiated to make sure a speed limit is posted; however, if this is not feasible due to geometric and/or operating conditions, or because a speed limit below 25 mph cannot legally be posted, then other signing options should be considered. These options include the use of a yellow and black advisory speed plaque mounted underneath a primary warning sign.

The primary warning sign to be initially considered is the recreational area symbol which depicts two children on a teeter totter. Other alternatives to be considered include the use of warning messages, such as **NARROW ROADWAY**, **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**, **BYCYCLE CROSSING**, **ROUGH ROAD**, etc.

Should it not be practical or feasible to (1) post a legal speed limit, (2) place a **RECREATIONAL AREA WARNING** sign assembly, or (3) install other warning signs, then consideration may be given to a **CHILDREN PRESENT** sign assembly, which includes an advisory speed plaque or a **NEXT X MILE** plaque. However, since the other signing alternatives convey to motorists specific regulations or warning or more permanent roadway conditions rather than conditions that may exist at unspecified times, **CHILDREN PRESENT** signs should only be installed after all the other alternatives have been considered.

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